

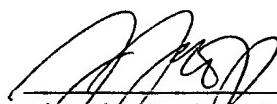
REMARKS

The office action addresses the issue of whether the Song reference teaches evaluating the sharpness of portions of said images taken at two different focal lengths on a pixel-by-pixel basis. It is suggested that in the cited material Song teaches just such a system.

To the contrary, Song decides to either sharpen pixels or implement noise reduction. He makes this determination, not by assessing the sharpness of the pixels, but by determining whether the pixels of interest constitute an edge in the image. If they constitute an image, he does sharpening and, otherwise, he does noise reduction. Thus, Song never makes the determination on a pixel-by-pixel basis or otherwise about the sharpness of the image data. See Song at column 4, line 65, through column 5, line 5.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested. On the same basis, reconsideration of the other claims would be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: September 29, 2005

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